

LAUDONNIERE AND THE FRENCH HUGUENOTS AT SELOY ON SITE OF  
ST. AUGUSTINE, 1564. MATANZAS RIVER IN FOREGROUND.

# St. AUGUSTINE

the

# OLDEST CITY

A DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE  
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

~~\$3.00~~  
aaa(Fla.)

# ST. AUGUSTINE

## the Oldest City in the United States

A DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE  
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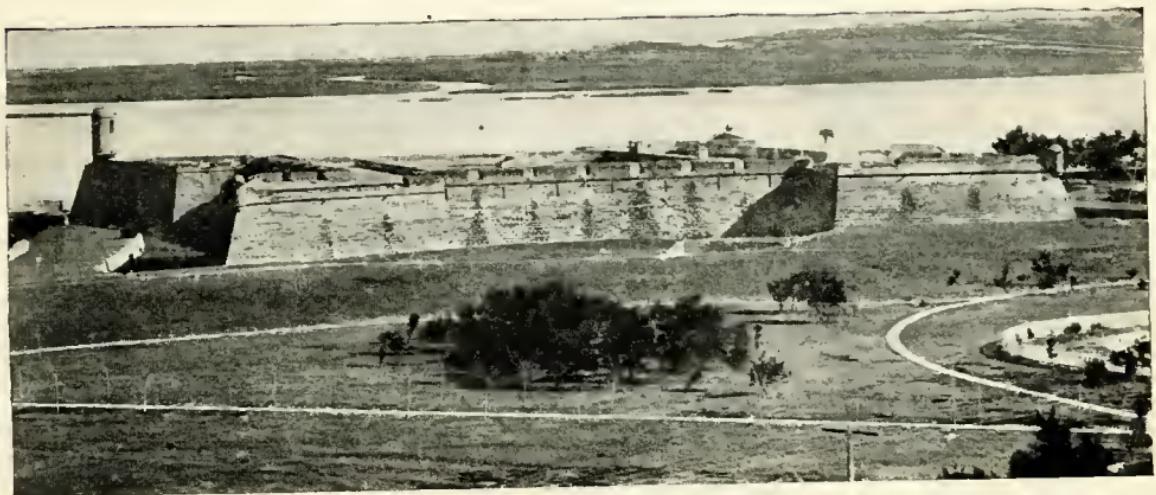
*By W. G. MacFarlane*

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FORT MARION, MATANZAS RIVER AND ANASTASIA ISLAND

# FORT MARION

Fort Marion has had an eventful history. For 240 years the flag of Spain waved over it in the breezes from the Gulf Stream. For 20 years the cross of St. George proclaimed British ownership and since 1821 the Stars and Stripes has proudly flown above its bastions.

It has figured in five or six wars; ten major sieges, attacks and expeditions are written into its records. It was sacked by Drake, but could not be captured in the investments which Moore, Palmer and Oglethorpe directed against it.

The history of the Fort is divided between two main periods. For 100 years from 1565 is a tale of almost continuous strife with French Huguenots, with Indians, with Pirates, with mutineers within, with English and French fleets. Then from 1670 to 1750 is a period of 80 years conflict with the English colonies of Georgia and South Carolina with sieges, expeditions by land and sea, Indian uprisings and raids by pirates. During the first 100 years the Fort was of wood. The stone fort was begun about the middle of the 17th century and proved to be impregnable to attack.

### Description of Fort Marion

Fort Marion is the only mediaeval fortress in the United States. It was built according to plans drawn by the Marquis de Vauban and at a cost it is said of \$30,000,000, a cost so great that a Spanish monarch asked if its walls had not been built of silver dollars. The engineer who is mainly responsible for its admirable construction was Don Antonio Arredondo, who was in charge of the work toward the close of the 17th century. It is a square with four bastions, each curtain or wall of the fort being 121 ft. long. Over the entrance the arms of Spain are graven into the stone, also the following inscription:

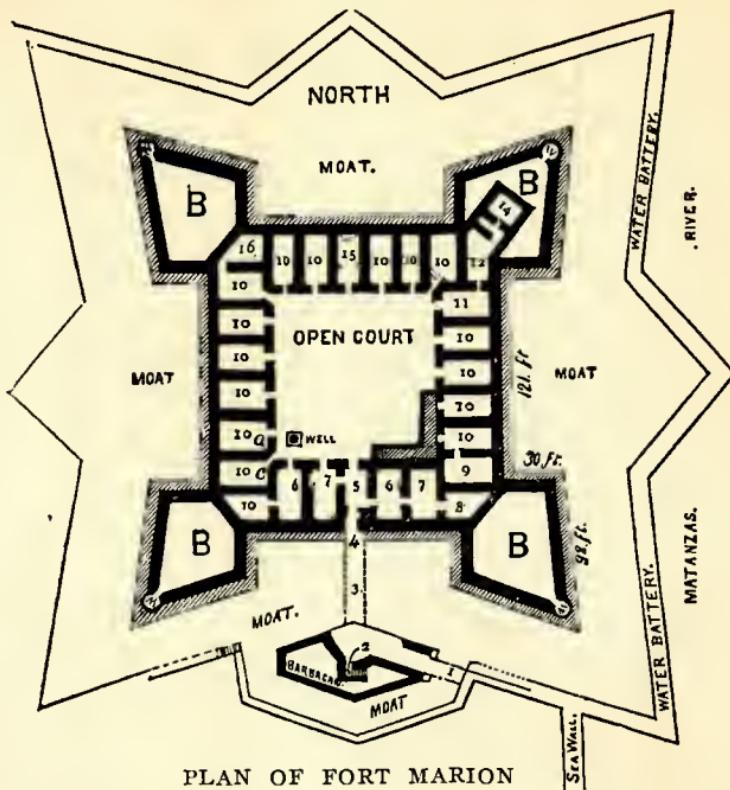
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REYNANDO EN ESPANA EL SENR  
DON FERNANDO SEXTO Y SIENDO  
GOVOR Y CAPN DE ESA CD SAN AUGN DE  
LA FLORIDA Y SUS PROVA EL MARISCAL  
DE CAMPO DNALONZO FERNDY HEREDA  
ASI CONCLUIO ESTE CASTILLO EL AN  
OD 1756 DIRIGENDO LAS OBRAS EL  
CAP INGNRO DN PEDRO DE BROZAS  
Y GARAY

Translation: "Don Ferdinand VI, being King of Spain, and the Field Marshal Don Alonzo Fernando Herada being Governor and Captain General of this place, San Augustin of Florida, and its province, this fort was finished in the year 1756. The works were directed by the Captain-Engineer, Don Pedro de Brozas and Garay."

The entrance is protected by the barbican (2) where the outer guard kept watch. From the barbican a footbridge (3) lead across the moat. This was formerly a drawbridge while a portcullis (4) was hung in grooves in the entrance further protecting it. The moat, 40 feet wide, in Spanish times was four feet deeper than it is now and was filled from the river by every rising tide, the sluice gate closing automatically when the tide began to drop.

The courtyard of the fort is 103x109 feet. The stairway was formerly a ramp, up which cannon were drawn with cables by sweating negro slaves to be mounted on the terreplein above. At the outer angles of each of the four bastions is a sentry box, also on the north east bastion a watch tower 25 feet high. The distance from tower to tower is 317 feet. The walls of the bastions and curtains are 9 feet through at the base and 4½ feet at the top and are 25 feet above the moat level. The arch under the stairway is considered one the finest Moorish arches in the New World and shows Arredondo's appreciation of values in line and contour. The



PLAN OF FORT MARION

bastions were given the following names: north-east, St. Paul; north-west, St. John; south-west, St. Augustine, south-east, St. Peter.

In the walls of the fort are 26 casemates. The first to the left of the gateway is the guard room (7), next the commandants quarters (6) then the quarters of the staff and other officers (10). Many of the casemates formerly had platforms seven feet from the floor where were the sleeping rooms. The embrasures in the casemates are high up near the arched ceiling. Next was the court room (10c) and then the treasury (10a). In

(15) was the chapel with a niche for the patron saint St. Augustine and an altar. One of the casemates was a prison where several crosses were fastened to the wall below which culprits were chained in an upright position.

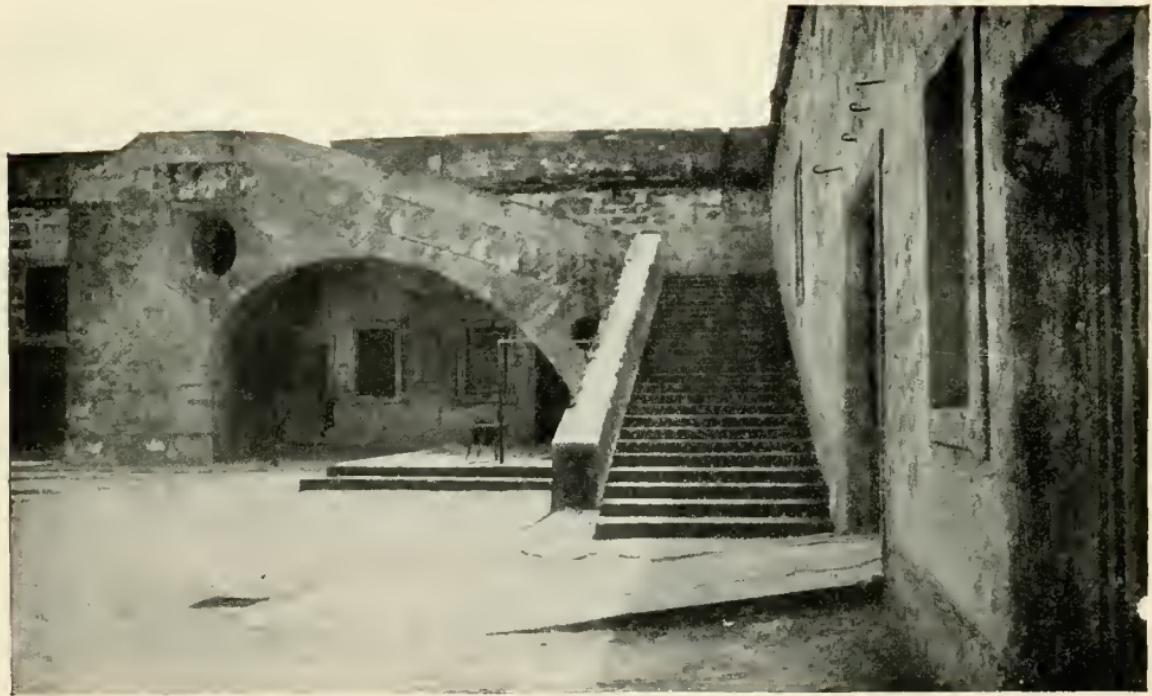
In 1835 two secret chambers were discovered in the fort. From dark chamber (12) on the plan of the fort a narrow passage leads through a wall 5 feet thick into a space 5 feet wide and by a low aperture 2 feet square in another wall 5 feet thick into an innermost chamber (14). This is  $19\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$  and 8 feet high and with an arched roof of solid masonry. It may have been a bomb proof or powder magazine. It is said that when these rooms were discovered torture racks were found in them and two iron cages for prisoners. These may or may not have been dungeons or torture chambers but it is a known fact that the Spaniards in those days used such instruments of torture.

At right of entrance was the bake room (6) and two dark chambers (7) and (8). In (10c) Coacoochee was confined.

The narrow level space beyond the moat is the covered way and the wider levels are the places of arms where the men were assembled to resist an attack on the outer walls or to make a sortie. From this outer parapet sloped the earth embankment called the glasis. The stone water battery on the east front was built in 1842 by the federal government and the hot shot furnace on the east curtain was erected in 1844.

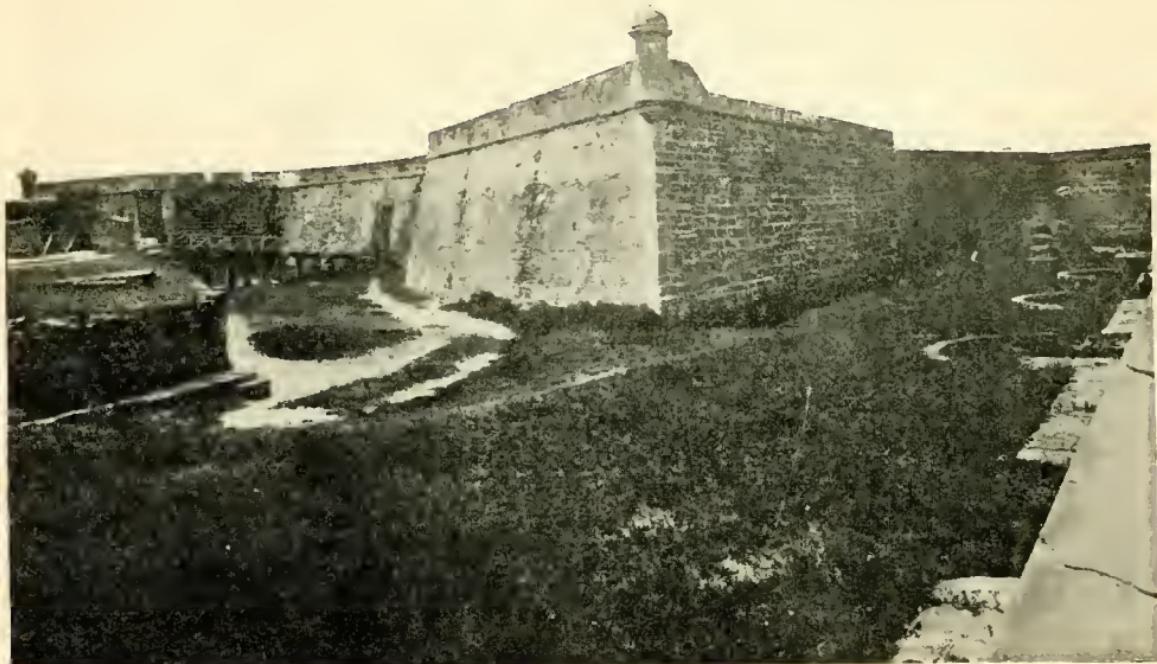
#### History of Fort Marion

The first fort at St. Augustine was the council house of the village of Seloy some distance north of the present Fort Marion. On September 6th, 1565 Menendez landed at St. Augustine and immediately began to fortify this house digging a ditch around it and throwing up a breast-work of earth and fascines. They occupied this



1361 ARCH AND STAIRWAY FORT MARION, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

DRAWBRIDGE, WATCH TOWER, MOAT HOT OVEN.



1367 FORT MARION, ONCE THE CAPITAL OF THE NEW WORLD, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

site for nearly a year, no doubt enlarging it greatly. The following May, however, hostile Timuquanans attacked the fort at night and discharging flights of fire arrows into the thatched roofs of the buildings set fire to the magazine and destroyed it. Menendez then decided to rebuild the fort at the entrance to the bar. The site was marked out on May 19th and work was immediately commenced. From three o'clock in the morning until 9 a. m. and from 2 p. m. to 7 p. m. 160 soldiers and colonists worked with a will and in ten days they had it finished with guns in position. About two months later they moved the fort a little inland as the sea had begun to encroach upon it.

The next few years witnessed troublous times at the fort, for the Spaniards had incurred the deadly enmity of the Indians. The garrison hardly dared to stir out of the fort. They could fish or search for other food only with armed guards. The soldiers and settlers were exhausted, famished and nearly naked. In 1569 the fort was reported to be rotting away on account of the great humidity of the climate and the walls had fallen down in places. In 1570 there were but 50 men in the garrison in charge of Pedro Menendez Marques, a nephew of the Adelantado.

In 1572 three large English vessels ,fully armed, attacked the fort but the Adelantado happened to have just arrived from an exploration and he succeeded in driving off the marauders.

During the next few years the Spaniards in San Juan de Pinas, as the fort was called, were much concerned over attacks and the fear of attacks by Indians and by French corsairs.

#### Drake's Attack

On May 28, 1586, St. Augustine was attacked by Sir Francis Drake, the famous English seaman, sailing North from a raid on the ports of the Caribbean Sea. Skirting the Florida coast his lookout men spied the



BARBICAN AND MOAT OF FORT MARION



THE TERREPLEIN AND BASTIONS OF FORT MARION



FORT SAN MARCO OF 300 YEARS AGO DEFENDED BY THREE ROUND TOWERS

watch tower of the fort, a platform built on four high masts. His fleet of 26 vessels carried 2300 men. They found the fort to be one of timbers set upright with 14 pieces of brass cannon mounted and with a garrison of only 150 men. The townspeople fled to the protection of the fort but in the flight they shot Drake's sergeant major. In retaliation Drake burned the town and then captured the fort and seized the treasure chest therein containing 2000 pounds sterling.

In 1626 the garrison of the fort numbered 300 men, but the Governor Rodrigues de Villegas wrote to the King in 1631 describing Fort San Marco as it was now called as being in a defenceless condition. It was so dry that it took fire when the artillery was discharged. It was suitable only for defense against the Indians. Many fleets were coming against it and he asks that a fort be built of stone.

In 1638 there was a revolt of the Indians in Apalache and trouble with the tribes around St. Augustine. These rebellions were subdued and as punishment the Indians were forced to work on the fort, this peon labor continuing for nearly 70 years. In 1645 Governor Luis de Salazar, the governor, reported that the fort was in ruins.

Work on the present Fort was started about the middle of the 17th century. The Fort for the first 100 years was of wood with round towers as pictured in the accompanying illustration.

1665, 100 years after of the founding of St. Augustine, Fort San Marco was attacked by the Buccaneer Capt. Davis, a Dutchman, with 7 or 8 ships, who plundered the town and fort, the inhabitants and garrison fleeing to the bush.

In 1670 the English settled Charleston, S. C., and there followed eighty-years of strife between the Spaniards and the English of South Carolina and Georgia.

Pablo Ita Salazar, Governor, writes Aug. 2, 1675.

that the old fort was in ruins. He had taken the oath of fidelity in the tower of the old fort. The artillery was dismounted and scattered as on a field of battle of the vanquished. The new fort is incomplete and with no defense, the garrison is in great want. He writes that he seized two small vessels with 2000 arrobas (25 pounds) of corn and he sent vessels for peons to continue the work in the castle.

Spain seems now to have decided to push the work on the fort and they required the Viceroy of New Spain to keep a six months supply of food at St. Augustine and to assist with 10,000 ducats a year. Mexico was to aid also and citizens and soldiers of St. Augustine were to assist in the building.

In 1682 Juan Marques Cabrera, the governor, reported that two French and English fleets with ten vessels had come on the coast and taken possession of the ports, seized seven vessels coming and going to Havana, entered and plundered Fort Matanzas at Matanzas Inlet. On another occasion this fort which had a garrison of 45 men was attacked by Indians who burned it. The governor reported that he was rebuilding it in the shape of a bonnet or cap with its inclinations bias. On the same expedition the French raided the estate of Lachua 18 leagues inland.

About 1690 they began to use Mexican convicts in the construction of the fort and at one time 140 were so employed. At this time the curtains had been completed but it lacked bastions and outer works.

In 1686 a party of Scotch settled at Port Royal Sound in South Carolina. St. Augustine sent an expedition of three vesesels to drive them away. Many of the Scotch were killed.

#### Besieged by Moore

In 1702 Governor Moore of South Carolina launched an attack upon Fort San Marco. Col. Daniel led an advance expedition over land and pillaged the town,

the residents taking refuge in the Fort with supplies for four months. Then Moore arrived with his fleet and entered the harbor. He landed his forces and made the church his headquarters. After three months two Spanish vessels arrived off the inlet and Moore raised the siege and burned the town. It was said that he carried off the church plate.

The English had organized the Indians against the Spaniards and the latter were obliged to abandon their posts in Georgia and South Carolina. The Spanish claimed that the English had either sold into slavery or driven off 10,000 or 12,000 Indians who were friendly to the Spaniards.

In 1725 Colonel Palmer of Georgia raised a body of 300 Militia and advanced against St. Augustine. The townspeople fled into the fort leaving the Indians to be killed or made prisoners. Palmer stripped the chapel of Nuestra Senora de la Leche of its plate and looted the town and then retired.

By 1737 the garrison of Fort San Marco had been increased to 700 men and money was appropriated to complete the fort.

#### Oglethorpe's Attack

In June 1740 Governor Oglethorpe of Georgia fitted out a great expedition against Fort San Marco consisting of land forces of 2000 men and a fleet of four vessels. He had British regulars, kilted highlanders, Carolina militia and Indians.

In May the land force was encamped at the mouth of the St. Johns River. The fort was then garrisoned by about 900 men. Oglethorpe captured several out-post forts including Picolata, Diego and Moosa and advanced upon the town. The inhabitants took refuge in the Fort so that about 3000 souls were crowded in its narrow confine. The English planted batteries on Anastasia Island and sent cannon balls crashing continuously against the Coquina walls. This continued

for weeks and the Spaniards were famished until a ship with supplies arrived from Cuba and broke through the British blockade. Finally Oglethorpe raised the siege abandoning artillery, supplies and ships and returned to Georgia.

Monteano, Governor of the Fort, then organized a counter expedition with 53 ships and 5000 troops. At St. Simons Island he encountered Oglethorpe's forces with only 625 men. He held Monteano at bay for 15 days, then drove him back to St. Augustine.

Oglethorpe made a second attack upon the Fort in 1742. He thought to capture it by surprise. But the alarm was sounded in time to close the city gates and prepare measures of defense. He beleaguered the city for two months and laid waste the surrounding country and then retired.

### The Minorcans

In 1763 Florida was ceded to Great Britain in return for Cuba which had been captured by an English fleet. Many of the Spanish left Florida and English planters from Barbados came in. Dr. Andrew Turnbull received a grant at Mosquito Inlet which he named New Smyrna and settled it with 1500 colonists, chiefly Minorcans with a few Greeks and Italians. The Minorcans were Spaniards from one of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean. Indigo and sugar plantations were started but dissatisfaction after two years arose and there was a rebellion which was put down. In 1776 they again revolted and fled to St. Augustine and the courts there freed them from their indenture to Turnbull. Many residents of St. Augustine are descendants of the Minorcans.

During the Revolutionary War Florida was Royalist and there was continual guerilla warfare between the Florida Rangers and the Liberty Boys of Georgia. General Charles Lee organized an expedition against St. Augustine which was prepared for attack but the invaders stopped at the St. Johns River and retired.

Troops from St. Augustine including many Minorcans took part in the capture of Savannah and Charleston. Sixty-one Revolutionary leaders of Charleston were made prisoners and sent to St. Augustine. Christopher Gadsden who would not accept a parole was confined in the Fort.

In 1783 an expedition set out from St. Augustine and captured the Spanish town of Nassau in the Bahamas. In that same year England restored Florida to Spain in exchange for Jamaica.

In 1821 Florida was ceded to the United States and the yellow banner of Spain which had flown over Fort San Marco for two centuries and a half was hauled down and replaced by the Stars and Stripes.

### Coacoochee and Osceola

In 1836 occurred the Seminole War. In the course of this Coacoochee and Osceola, chiefs of the Seminoles came to St. Augustine under a flag of truce for a conference with General Hernandez. But the flag of truce was violated and they were confined in the Court Room of Fort Marion. At the rear of the room may be seen the niches which they dug so that they could climb to the ventilator, 18 feet above the floor. Coacoochee fasted so as to be able to squeeze his body through the horizontal bars of the ventilator which were 8 in. apart. He dropped to the moat 25 ft. below and escaped. Osceola refused to escape with him and remained in confinement in the Fort for over two months. On Jan. 1, 1838 he was sent to Fort Moultrie in Charleston Harbor where he died of a broken heart at the perfidy of the white men on the 30th of that month.

On March 11, 1862 Fort Marion was surrendered to Commodore Rogers of the Union forces and was garrisoned by Federal troops until the close of the War.

SITE OF OLD INDIAN VILLAGE OF SELoy.



1380 FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

### Ponce de Leon and the Fountain of Youth.

The Fountain of Youth which is visited by thousands of tourists every winter was the site of the Indian town of Seloy, and it is claimed that Ponce de Leon when he landed on the coast of Florida on Palm Sunday in the year 1512 and in the latitude of St. Augustine, visited the town and that the Indians showed him a fountain with wonderful curative properties. Here too Menendez landed in 1565 when he established St. Augustine, and here he built the first Fort of tree trunks then called San Juan de Pinos, using the Indian Council House for that purpose. Here was the Cano de La Leche, a small creek, and here was erected the first chapel, Nuestra Senora de la Leche, Our Lady of the Milk of Human Kindness.

Florida was discovered on Pascua Florida, Palm Sunday, in the year 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon and because of the day he called it Florida. Ponce de Leon was a native of Leon in Spain of distinguished family. He was with Columbus on his second voyage and in 1509 he conquered the island of Porto Rico, slaughtering the natives who thought that the Spaniards were immortal.

Ponce was told by the Indians of a land to the north called Bimini, abounding in gold and possessing a fountain where youth was renewed for those who bathed in it.

On March 3rd, 1512 he sailed from Porto Rico with three caravels. On March 27th he came upon the Florida coast line at the Bahamas Channel. He coasted north and on April 2nd, Palm Sunday, he came to anchor at 30 degrees 8 minutes north which is off North Beach, St. Augustine.

This was on the site of St. Augustine where was the Indian village of Seloy. There was a great circular

council house in a central square and around it were grouped smaller palmetto thatched houses where the Indians lived. The men wore inflated fish bladders in their ears and the women kilts of woven moss and bangles of silver and gold. On a pole in the central square was raised on high the sacred stag. Maize fields surrounded the village.

Ponce de Leon landed with banners flying and with salvos of artillery and took possession of the country in the name of his royal master calling the land Florida. He then sailed south rounding the peninsula to the western shore.

In 1521 Ponce de Leon led a second expedition of two ships to Florida but when he attempted to land the Indians showed great hostility and in the fight he received an arrow wound. He abandoned his settlement and returned to Cuba where he died from his wound. Upon his tomb was placed the inscription: In this Sepulchre rest the bones of a man who was Leon by name and still more by nature.

Others of his name figured later in the history of Florida. In 1632 Nicholas Ponce de Leon reported to the king on products of Florida which are dutiable. Nicholas Ponce de Leon was acting Governor of St. Augustine for six months in 1655 when he died. In 1675 Nicholas Ponce de Leon was Sergt.-Major of Fort San Marco. In 1566 Juan Ponce de Leon wrote to the King concerning English Lutheran ships whose men were taken to Florida. The name is still preserved in St. Augustine in the abbreviated form of Ponce.

### St. Augustine of 250 Years Ago.

Let us tell of St. Augustine as it was 250 years ago or about 1680, after it had been in existence 115 years. St. Augustine was a royal city with a royal fortress. Nearly all in the city were in the service of the King of Spain, soldiers, sailors, civic officials, keepers of his majesty's stores, pilots of his majesty's ships, the King's slaves, the King's peons who worked upon the King's fort.

The old wooden fort was in ruins. Pablo Ita Salazar, the governor, wrote in 1675 that he took the oath of office in the tower of the old fort. The artillery was dismantled and scattered as on a field of battle of the vanquished. The new stone fort was then in process of construction. The garrison of the fort comprised about 300 soldiers, there were about 100 slaves. The coquina stone of which the fort was built was cut in the quarries on Anastasia Island. The chain gangs dragged the stone blocks to the shore opposite the fort and ferried them over. Two of the Captains who assisted in the hauling of stone and the building of the fort received only 6 reals (30 cents) a day. Out of their small salaries the soldiers had to pay for repairs on the old fort and work on the new. They also had to assist in the cost of fitting the fleet of three ships that brought their supplies from Havana. The Kings Chest in the fort was nearly always empty and there was usually four to six years pay due the garrison. In 1660 202,654 pesos, five years back pay was due them, but next year only 67,155 pesos were sent out. This covered the annual pay roll but none of the back pay. At times the soldiers were so poverty stricken and naked that they could not mount guard. The Indian peons who worked on the stone castle received 3 reals a day (equal to 15 cents) and 3 pounds of corn.



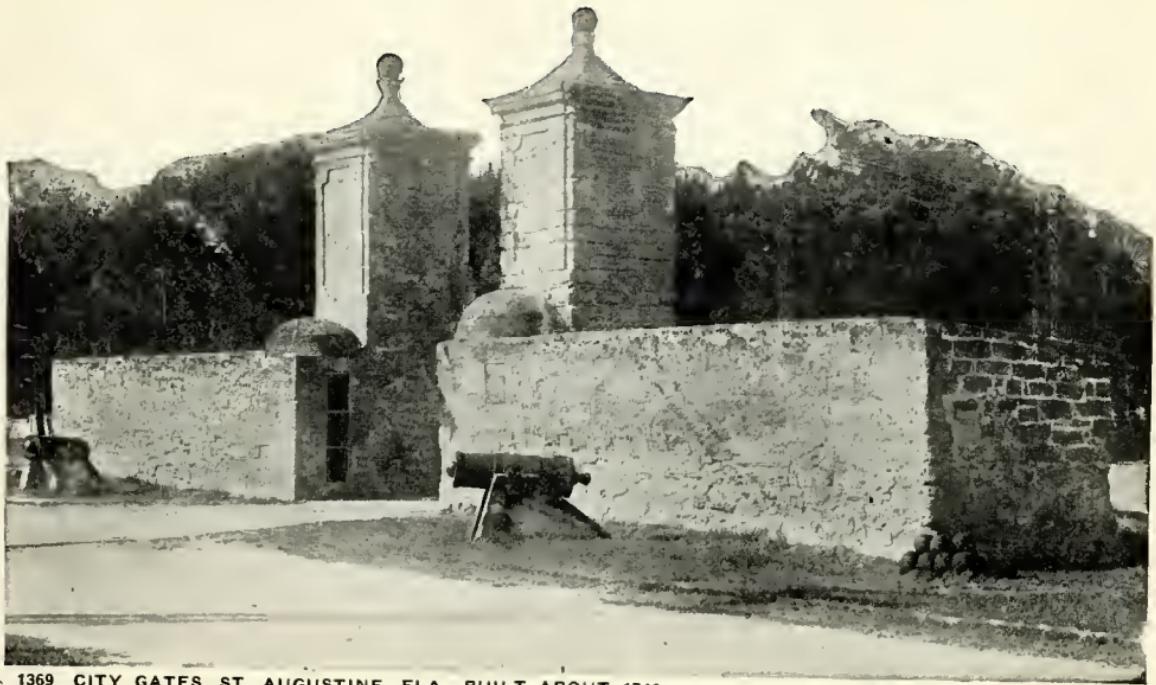
The life of the town centered about the Plaza, now the public square, one of the most historic squares in the United States. Through it has flowed the life of twelve generations of Spanish, British and American soldiers and citizens. It has suffered fire and pillage many times from Indians, pirates, buccaneers and English colonists. It was the parade ground for Spanish and British defenders of town and fort. It was the center of the chief activities of the town. Here were the governor's mansion and offices, the convent and church, the guard house, market and pilot house. The brown robed Franciscans in sandals and tonsure carried the Host through the Square in solemn processional on Feast days and on days of prayer for success of their arms against their enemies.

The present Post Office was then the Governor's residence with piazzas on both the north and south sides and with a lookout tower to sight approaching ships. It had too a wonderful high walled garden. The building dated from prior to the year 1600. The governors were usually of the Spanish nobility but the records show that they were not above reproach. The governor Robilledo was accused of corrupt practices and Don Francisco Moral Sanchez of excesses in public and private life. Offices were bought and sold. Antonio Menendez Marques was chosen Condator of the Hacienda Real and Cajas Reales having paid 1000 pesos for the job though it paid only 1470 pesos in salary.

The Guard House stood on the site of the Monson Hotel with stocks and pillory adjoining where minor offenders were punished. Guards for the slightest offenses were sometimes beaten through the streets. Habitual offenders were drummed out of town at the head of a jeering mob.

#### Slavery and the Slave Market

The Band Stand on the square is called the Slave market. Here was the site of the market and nearby



~ 1369 CITY GATES, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., BUILT ABOUT 1743

was the Pilot House with Pilot boats drawn up on the shore. In the market were the slave blocks where slaves seized for debt were offered for sale and the whipping post where a century ago slaves were whipped as shown by the county records.

Slavery existed longer in St. Augustine than anywhere else on the continent north of Mexico, for three centuries in fact. When Menendez founded St. Augustine in 1565 the cedula from the King authorized him to bring to the colony 500 African slaves. He appeared however to have brought only twenty negro slaves with him and these built the first fort, San Juan de Pinos.

On March 22, 1577 the King on the petition of the Council of the Indies licensed three men to take negro slaves to Florida in payment of wages due them in Florida.

Governor Miranda in 1583 reported to the King that your Majesty's negros have made a platform for the artillery, a blacksmith shop; they built a church, cleared woods for planting and sawed lumber for many dwellings. Ten negros had been sent to St. Helena on the Georgia coast to rebuild the fort there.

In 1608 Governor Ibarra wrote the King in Spain that they had 100 negro slaves whom they could not trust. In 1682 eight negro males and two females came from St. George in the Carolinas. The Governor of St. George sent for them but it was agreed to sell them to the King of Spain for \$1600.00 and they were to be put to work on Fort San Marco. When work on the stone fort was begun slaves who were stone masons in Cartagena were brought to work on the fort.

During the Spanish rule the slaves were mostly owned by the King and were employed to work in the Fort.

In the British period they were employed by the planters on their sugar and indigo plantations. In the American period slaves were not as widely used in Florida as in other states as plantation industry was not as greatly developed there. There were some large plantations, however, Abram Du Pont of the famous Du Pont family, the explosive manufacturers, had a plantation at Matanzas on the outskirts of St. Augustine with 167 slaves valued at \$98.000.

St. Augustine was a square about four blocks long and four blocks wide enclosed by walls. The walls started at Fort Marion and extended west to the San Sebastian River. The City Gates which were in the North wall built of coquina, still stand at the head of St. George street. A moat ran along the foot of the wall filled by the tides from Matanzas Creek crossed at the city gates by a draw bridge. Along the north wall were redoubts Tolomato, Centro and Cubo, the latter on the angle at the San Sebastian River. Then the wall extended south along the river to the coquina batteries that defended the town on the South, then north past the Powder House and the Plaza to the Fort. For the most part the walls were of wood or earth. At sunset the gates of the city were closed and the sentries paced the walls with pike and arquebus from redoubt to redoubt. After the sunset gun none was allowed within the gates without a pass.

St. George street was the towns principal street leading as it did from Fort and City Gates to the Plaza. Here were the shops, the boticas, where roystering soldiers drank and gambled. On Charlotte and other narrow streets were the homes of officials with their gardens and high garden walls.

### The Founding of St. Augustine by Menendez and the Massacre of the Huguenots.

The name of Menendez de Aviles, the Adelantado and the founder of St. Augustine, is one of the most glorious in the annals of Spain. He was the greatest of Spanish seaman of his time, decisive in action and exceedingly resourceful. His career of glory upon the seas was fittingly recognized when he was appointed by his sovereign Commander of the Great Armada against England and Captain General of the Oceanic Seas, but death took him before he could assume that command.

After a life of devoted zeal in the service of his country he died penniless. He spent in fourteen months out of his pocket a million ducats on the expedition to Florida which he had undertaken to colonize at his own expense.

The founding of St. Augustine is a tale of tragedy, of massacre and grim reprisal. It deluged the site of St. Augustine, the birth of the new land of Florida in blood. It gave to the river upon which St. Augustine stands the name of Matanzas, the place of slaughter. For Spanish Catholic and French Huguenot were fighting for a foothold in the land of Florida, the French at Fort Caroline on the River of May (the St. Johns River) and the Spaniards at St. Augustine.

In 1562 Jean Ribault a French Huguenot seaman visited the River of May where he erected a stone monument and he then planted an ill fated colony on Parris Island, S. C. This expedition was followed up by that of Rene de Laudonniere who arrived at Seloy on June 22nd, 1564 and named the Matanzas River the River of Dolphins. Thence he went to the River of May where he built Fort Caroline and established a settlement. The colonists met with such hardships that they were about



RUINS OF FORT MATANZAS, NEARLY TWO CENTURIES OLD



FRENCH HUGUENOTS LANDING AT SELOY, 1564

to abandon the fort when Sir John Hawkins, the English seaman, sighted their lookout tower and gave them food and left one of his ships. On August 29, 1565 Jean Ribault arrived with seven ships and 300 colonists to relieve the colony.

Ten days later Pedro Menendez d'Aviles, Adelentado, arrived at the Indian town of Seloy on the site of St. Augustine. He had left Cadiz June 29 with 34 vessels and 2600 men, his flagship the San Pelayo being of 900 tons. On Sept. 4 he arrived at the river of May. There he found Jean Ribault. Ribault put to sea in his flagship the Trinity and Menendez sailed south to the River of Dolphins, the Matanzas River.

Here the knights and men at arms, the colonists, artisans, priests, armorers and seamen landed clad in full armor with the red and yellow banner of Spain and with salvos from the flagship San Pelayo and the other ships. They took possession in the name of the King of Spain of the land of Florida embracing the whole continent north of Mexico and all the officers took the oath of allegiance. They converted the Indian Council House into a fort digging a ditch around it and mounting 24 brass cannon.

Ribault brought his fleet to attack Menendez but an equinoctial gale dispersed his ships, some of them being wrecked. Menendez then took 500 arquebusiers and pikemen for a dash at Fort Caroline. They marched through torrential rains wading swamps with the water up to their arm pits. On the fourth night they arrived at Fort Caroline and took the garrison by surprise butchering all except Landonnierre and two others.

On their return to St. Augustine Menendez learned that 200 of Ribault's men were at Matanzas Inlet. They had been shipwrecked. Menendez demanded that they lay down their arms and give themselves up unconditionally. They were compelled to agree to this. Then Menendez had them bound in squads of 10, taken behind a hill and stabbed to death. Then another party of 150 including Ribault surrendered themselves and were stabbed to death in the same way. Thus was written in terrible slaughter the name of the river and inlet upon which St. Augustine stands, Matanzas, for Matanzas means Place of Massacre and the name records Menendez terrible slaughter of the Huguenots.

Three years later Dominique de Gourgues, a French catholic, determined to avenge the cold blooded murder of his countrymen. He fitted out three ships and sailed to the River of May and to Fort Caroline which the Spaniards had renamed Fort San Mateo. Here he was met by the Chief Satourina, whose Indians were friendly to

the French. They jointed forces and made a savage onslaught upon the fort and its garrison of 400. They captured the fort by a swift rush and put to the sword all the Spaniards except forty-five. These were hanged from trees upon which De Gourgues had an inscription burned into a tablet of wood "I do not this as unto Spaniards, nor as unto mariners, but as unto Traitors, Robbers and Murderers." This was a bitter reply to a similar sign which Menendez had put up three years before after hanging men of the garrison of Fort Caroline and which had read "I do not this as unto Frenchmen, but as unto Lutherans."

### Piracies and Mutinies

For two and a half centuries after the founding of St. Augustine the Caribbean, the Bahamas channel and South Atlantic waters teemed with pirates, corsairs and buccaneers. They preyed upon plate ships and merchantmen, they sacked the cities of the Spanish Main and caroused in hidden coves in tropic isles.

St. Augustine commanding the Desembocadera (the Bahamas Channel) was directly in the path of Pirate attack and the look out on the watch tower ever had an eye alert for the Pirate flag. But the Captain General of the Fort had the added fear of mutinies within. There were mutinies by the garrison even in the time of Menendez de Aviles, the founder. In 1593 a Spanish document in the archives of Spain tells how the people in San Augustin mutinied against the Governor Gutierrez de Miranda in the name of the King and named Capt. Francisco Salazar governor in his place. They mutinied because they had not had wages for five years. They claimed that they had not mutinied against the King but against Miranda as an individual. They were however found guilty and sent to Havana to be executed. They were brought to the square in that city—drawn at the tails of four horses as was the custom with con-

demned prisoners. They were than hanged, their heads cut off, and placed on the walls of the city. Six others were sent to the galleys for 5 and 10 year terms. Salazar was condemned to death by having his head chopped off from behind. He however appealed to the King and was pardoned.

There was fear also of mutinies by their negro slaves and by their Indian subjects. In 1656 when an English Armada threatened the Fort, Governor Don Diego Robilledo asked for assistance of the Timuquanan Indians but when that assistance arrived they had to forget the Armada and defend themselves against the Indians.

Governor Pedro Ibarra writes to the King in 1607 of the hanging of some French and English pirates. "Two of them were baptized and all died as Christians and the whole city turned out to lay them out and bury them. I only wish that with these pirates we might put an end to them all on these coasts. There are so many that they keep us in great anxiety and I implore you to send me people to destroy them. I have every one on the coast enlisted to aid in their destruction but my experience is that many have not only sheltered them, saved their lives and estates but continue to serve them and allow them to come and go at will. They come from a distance of a hundred leagues with all confidence and safety."

Luis de Rojas, Governor, informed the King in 1626 of an attack by a fleet of Dutch pirates under Pedro Yanez. Capt. Diego de Pozo had embarked from St. Augustine in one of his Majesty's frigates to bring supplies from Havana which were due with the fleet from New Spain. On Sept. 13th, near Cape Canaveral he discovered 13 vessels, 10 large and 3 small. The fleet gave chase and lowered two boats to board him with 22 men each, and later two launches with 100 men. Pozo and

his men went ashore and retreated to the edge of the forest. The pirates stripped the frigate and burned the hull. The Governor despatched an expedition of 150 Spaniards and a large force of Indians in pursuit of the fleet but they had sailed away. The pilots said that the 13 vessels came with supplies and ammunition for the Dutch fleet in Havana but had arrived too late as the fleet had departed. The crews of Yanez fleet were mostly very young men and boys.

### Tha Franciscans and the Oldest House

One of the most historic sites of the city is that of the State Arsenal at the corner of Marine and St. Francis street, just opposite the Oldest House. Here was the convent house of the Franciscans for nearly 200 years and for over 150 years it was the head convent of the Province of St. Helena with missions scattered over Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The foundations of the building are probably the oldest in the city. When the Franciscans left Florida in 1763 upon its cession to England, the convent was turned into a barracks for the British garrison.

The history of the Franciscans in St. Augustine and Florida covers a period of two hundred years. The first Franciscans came in 1573 followed four years later by several others. In 1592 there were only five missionaries in Florida but in 1593 Fray Juan de Silval arrived with 12 companion priests. Francis Marron was then the warden of the convent at St. Augustine.

In 1597 occurred the massacre of the Franciscans. The Indians claimed that the priests were artful and took away their enchantments or withcraft and would not

BUILT ABOUT 1565 BY MONKS OF ST. FRANCIS.



1365 OLDEST HOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

allow them to have more than one wife. A young chief of Guale (Georgia) aroused the Indians against Father Pedro de Corpas at Tolomato and they killed him with an axe. They then went to the village of Topiqui where they slew Fray Blas Rodriguez first allowing him to say Mass. Next they went to Assopo in Georgia where Father Miguel de Aunon and Antonio Badajoz ministered. The Indians clubbed them to death with their micanos, clubs tipped with flint. At the village of Asao they waited for the return of Fray Francisco de Velascola, a monk of great strength, who had gone to San Augustine. He returned in a canoe and at the shore was ambushed by the Indians who beat him to death. Next they attacked Fray Francisco de Avila at Aspo driving him through the streets naked and lashing him with whips, but he escaped death. Governor Canso led an expedition into Guale, captured several of the Indians and burned the crops in the fields. The ringleader in the murder, Lucas, and several others of the Indians were sent to Havana to be hanged.

After the massacre the Missions languished for a time. In 1612 however 23 Franciscans were sent to Florida, in 1613 eight more were sent and in 1615 twelve others. By 1615 there were 20 residences in the principal Indian towns. In 1633 a mission was established at Apalachee and in two years had 5000 converts. Mission development was at its height from 1650 to 1675. There were then 35 missions serving 26,000 converts and the convent at St. Augustine was the head convent of the Province of St. Helena which embraced the missions in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

The Franciscan priests in their brown robes with white rope girdle, their tonsured heads, their hoods and sandals were devoted zealots, living a life of poverty and toil that they might win converts to their faith. The mission bells called the Neophites to devotion amid the

pine woods of Western Florida, on lonely hammocks amid the swamps of South Florida, amid the waving saw grass of the Everglades, on the shores of crystal lakes in Central Florida, amid the rice swamps of the Georgia and Carolina coasts, in little coastal bays along the Gulf of Mexico, high up on the rivers of Georgia. The priests helped the Indians look after their crops after the planting and helped them in other material ways.

Governor Ibarra wrote in 1607 that 500 Indians came to St. Augustine during holy week and were much edified by the religious processions and services.

In 1656 there was a rebellion in Appalachee and the Spaniards hanged some of the caciques. The Indians thereupon destroyed the missions. The Franciscans fled to the coast and embarked for Spain but were lost at sea in a storm.

When the English settled in Charleston in 1670 the Franciscans began to lose their hold upon the Indians of Georgia and by the end of the century the missions in Georgia had been destroyed or discontinued.

A map of St. Augustine of 1675 showed 17 Indian chapels nearby. In 1773 when Florida was ceded to Great Britain the Franciscans abandoned their missions and left the country and their Indian converts became wanderers and were called Seminoles. Indians occupied two towns under the walls of St. Augustine and they were deprived of their churches.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Fort Marion**, begun about 1650, completed 1756, provided for a complement of 1000 men. With preceding wooden forts dates back to 1565.

**City Gates**, at end of St. George St., part of North wall of St. Augustine. Stone pillars are 30 feet high. At least two centuries old.

### Oldest House

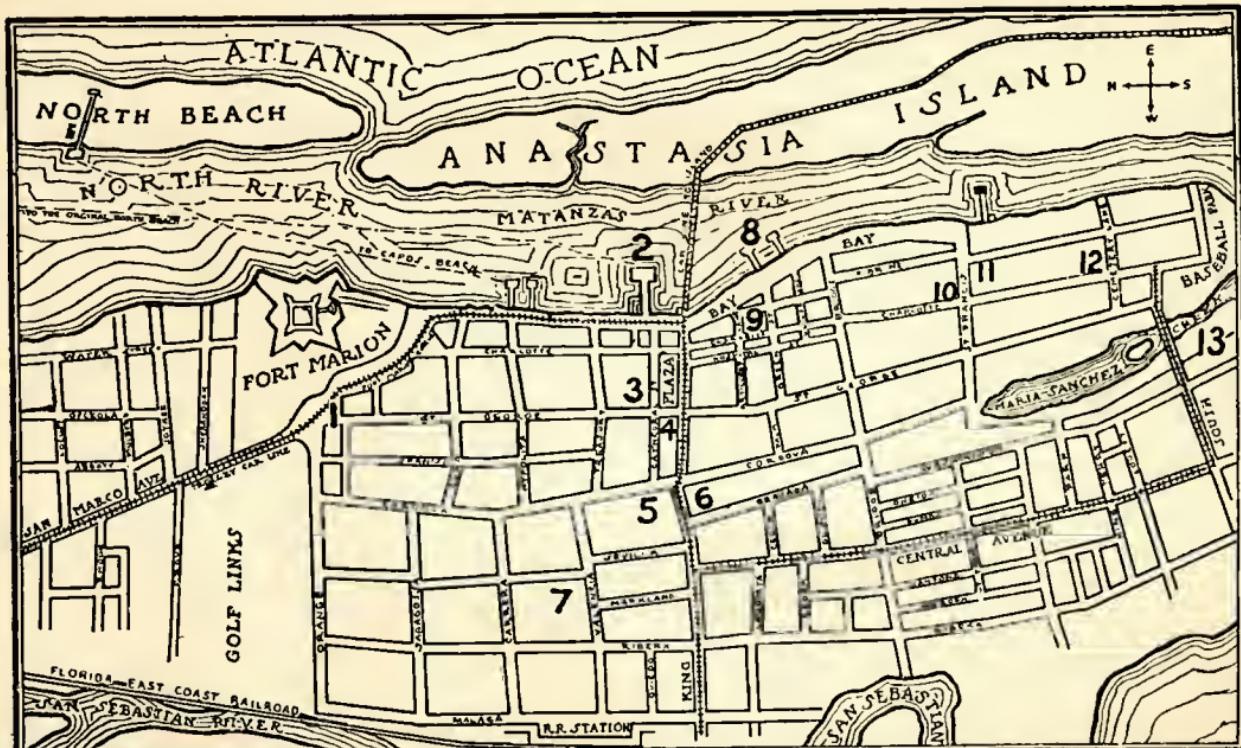
The authorities of the St. Augustine Historical Society consider that the Oldest House dates from the 16th century. Tradition says that it was built for the Friars who came with Menendez. Drake's map shows that the city in 1586 was located in the region of St. Francis street. The lot upon which it is built was four times the size of the other lots on the street and it is inferred that this lot belonged to Menendez as he was granted a lot of this size. When the English came in 1763 they found an old house with the date 1571 upon it and it is believed that this was the Oldest House. In 1789 Don Geronimo Alvarez became the owner of the House. He was a member of the Menendez family. The house remained in the family until 1882 when it was sold by St. Elmo Acosta. The house is built of first floor coquina, second floor tabique. It is the headquarters of the Historical Society and contains a museum.

### PLAZA

**St. Augustine Cathedral**, on the Plaza was built by order of the King of Spain 1793-1797, and was blessed Dec. 8, 1791. The belfry is of Moorish type and one of the bells was cast in 1682. The church was constructed under the supervision of Don Mariana de la Roque.

**Constitution Monument**—This monument on the Public Square or Plaza de la Constitucion was erected in 1813 of white stuccoed coquina.

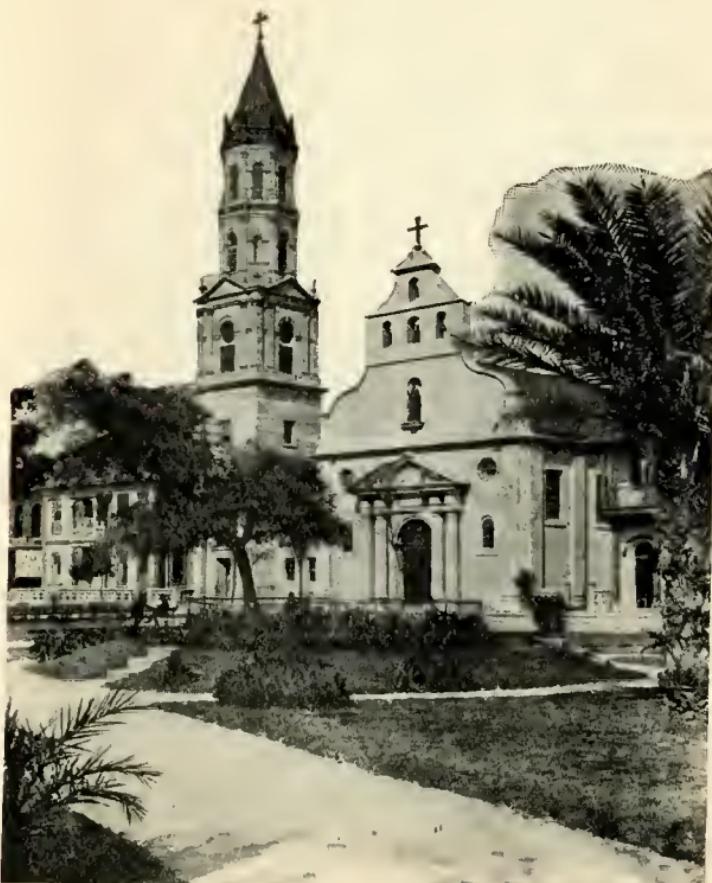
**Bridge of Lions**—Crossing the Matanzas River at the Plaza, cost \$1,000,000.



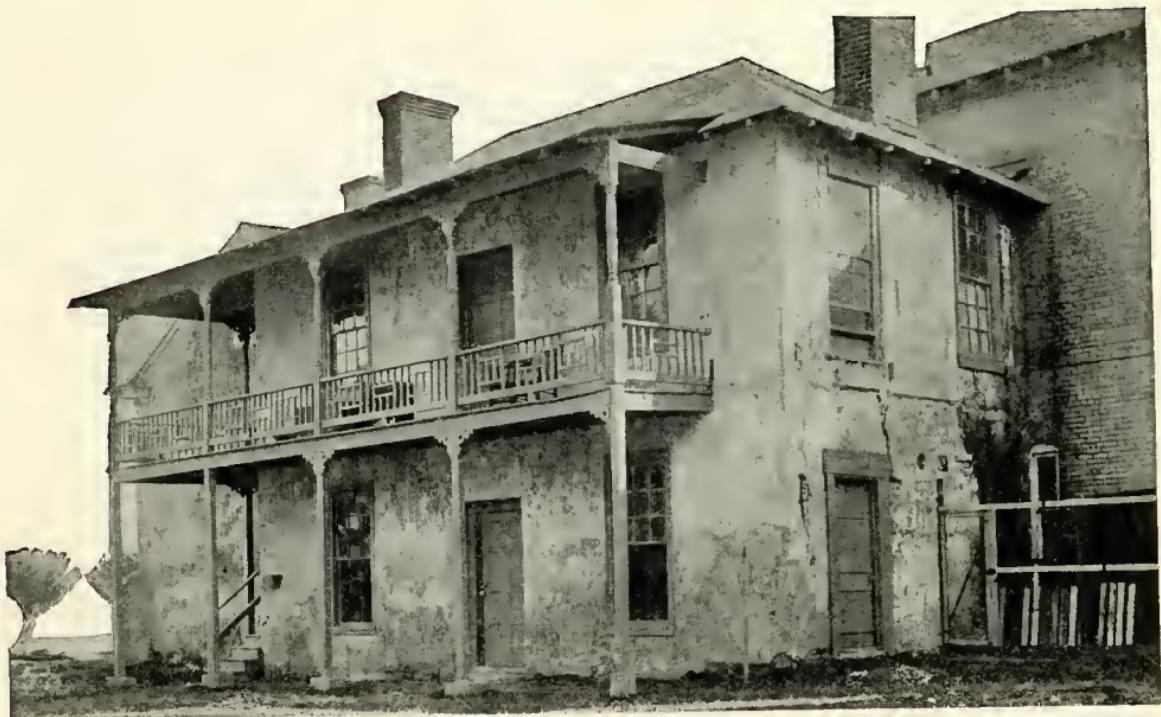
- 1 City Gates
- 2 Yacht Club
- 3 St. Augustine Cathedral
- 4 Spanish Governor's Palace
- 5 Ponce de Leon Hotel

- Map of St. Augustine
- 6 Alcazar Hotel and Casino
  - 7 Flagler Memorial Church
  - 8 City Pier

- 9 Public Library
- 10 Oldest House in U. S.
- 11 Old Franciscan Monastery
- 12 National Cemetery
- 13 Golf Links



1364 OLD SPANISH CATHEDRAL, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA. BUILT 1793.



USINA'S OLD HOUSE

**Statue of Ponce de Leon**, on Anderson Circle adjoining Plaza.

**Post Office**—This was the Spanish Governr's mansion erected in 1598 and was occupied by Spanish governors for 200 years.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**, second oldest church in city, on Plaza Square.

**Slave Market**—Here was the Spanish market, and later the market house of the American city. Slaves were sold here a century ago.

**Fountain of Youth**—Site of the Indian village of Seloy where Ponce de Leon landed in 1513, and where Menendez also landed in 1565. Legend says that Ponce de Leon was shown a Fountain of Youth here.

**Church of Nuestra Senora de la Leche**—Site of first church built in St. Augustine in 1565 on Cano de la Leche. Later this was built of stone, and was pillaged in the siege by Palmer. The present church was built in commcmoration of the old church.

**St. George Street**, dating from 16th and 17th century with many old houses including Dodge's old house.

**Treasury Street** crosses St. George St. from Bay to Cordova. It was only 7 ft. wide until it was partially burned in the fire of 1914.

## ANASTAZIA ISLAND

**Anastazia Island**, 17 miles long by one half to two miles wide, St. Augustine Inlet at north, Matanzas Inlet at south.

**Anastazia Light**, erected by U. S. Government, with towers 165 ft. high. Magnificent view from top.

**Alligator Farm**, one of the largest in Florida, near the Lighthouse.

**Beaches**—The beaches of fine hard sand are 17 miles long. There are Vilano Beach with casino, Crescent Beach and North Beach.



1371 HOTEL PONCE DE LEON, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

**Fort Matanzas**—Here are the ruins of a stone fort built about 1740. This was preceded by a succession of wooden forts that guarded Matanzas Inlet. In this vicinity occurred the massacre of 350 French Huguenots in 1565 by Menendez.

### Ponce de Leon Hotel

On King St., one block from the Plaza, is the Ponce de Leon Hotel, built in 1885-7 by the late Henry M. Flagler at a cost of about \$4,000,000 and one of the most famous hotels in the world. The architects were Carrere & Hastings and the style of architecture may be described as Spanish Renaissance with flattened domes, towers, broadly projecting eaves under red tiled roofs, courtyards surrounded by broad colonnades and filled with luxuriant tropical plants. It is built of the rich-hued Coquina and concrete.

Across King Street is the Alcazar with beautiful gardens and court and of similar architecture to the Ponce de Leon.

**Old Franciscan Building**, now used as a barracks. It was built toward the end of the 16th century and was used as a monastery and convent during Spanish rule, but was converted into a barracks when Florida was acquired by the English in 1763.

**Public Library**, on Hospital Street.

**Historical Society Library**—Miss Emily L. Wilson Librarian.

**Memorial Presbyterian Church**, on Valencia Street, built by Henry M. Flagler as a memorial to his daughter, the most magnificent of the city's churches.

**Old Spanish Cemetery**, Cordova St.—Here was formerly the Indian chapel of Tolomato, where one of the priests was killed in the massacre of 1597.



1376 COURT OF HOTEL PONCE DE LEÓN, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.



CHARLOTTE STREET, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.



1372 PONCE DE LEON ENTRANCE AND ALCAZAR HOTEL, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.



1374 HOTEL ALCAZAR, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.



1362—TREASURY STREET, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

7 FEET WIDE, NARROWEST STREET IN U. S. A.

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